

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's representative Susan Pan (Reg. No. 41,239) on 28 February 2007.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- In claim 1, please make the following two changes:
 - On lines 5-6, please replace the phrase "in accordance with a shape of a microcalcification pattern" with --that is dependent on the shape of a microcalcification pattern—
 - On lines 8-9 replace the phrase "in accordance with a shape of a microcalcification pattern" with the phrase —that is dependent on the shape of a microcalcification pattern—
- In claim 8, please make the following two changes:
 - On line 8 of the claim, please replace the phrase "in accordance with a shape of a microcalcification pattern" with --that is dependent on the shape of a microcalcification pattern—
 - On lines 10-11 of the claim, please replace the phrase "in accordance with a shape of a microcalcification pattern" with --that is dependent on the shape of a microcalcification pattern—

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Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-24 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- The independent claims have been clarified such that it is now clear that the shape-dependent filter is actually a function (i.e. it depends on) of the shape of a microcalcification pattern. The cited prior art does not teach this limitation, but previously read on the claims because this limitation was not required given the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claim. Now that this limitation has been made more clear, the claims are in condition for allowance.
- Further, the examiner hereby withdraws the rejections under 35 USC 112(2) to claims 23 and 24. Applicant's arguments in the appeal brief are persuasive.